

Recreation Committee Meeting

Minutes

February 14, 2017

Hardwick Public Safety Building

Present: Katharine Ingram, Chair, Joe Brosseau, Nicole Miller, Derek Williams, Jessica Manchester.

Katharine called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes of the January 31 meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Joe and a second by Nicole.

There was no financial report, as Kathy Hemmens was not present.

Calendar: Katharine reported that she had approved a three-months payment (reimbursement) for development of the Recreation Calendar and Website. In an update, Jessica reported that she had recruited several organizations—GRACE, Open Space, the Library, Art House—to list events on the Rec calendar. She (and Katharine) also reported that two longtime Town residents had explicitly questioned the need for a new calendar. This led to a wider discussion about potential conflicts between the new Rec calendar and the current Town calendar, during which the following general conclusions emerged:

- (1) As constructed, the current Town calendar is cumbersome. Becoming quickly overloaded, without filter capabilities, its longterm functionality is limited.
- (2) The Town needs a more flexible, expandable, and inclusive activities calendar.
- (3) Although not wanting to be redundant or offend those who feel comfortable with the current system, the Rec committee does have budget approval for and Jessica has put significant effort into developing a calendar that will more adequately meet the needs of the community.
- (4) While the Rec calendar is being refined and its usage gradually expanded, the committee needs to directly address/respond to the concerns of those who might doubt its value—the Select Board, the Town Manager, some town residents. Katharine and Jessica will take the lead on demonstrating what the Rec calendar can do, and explaining its future possibilities.
- (5) We are not asserting that a new “Activities” calendar on the Rec website immediately replace existing ones on the Town website, but we do think that the consolidation of a wide range of community activities into one “go-to” calendar is a reasonable objective.

Advertising: Katharine addressed an ongoing concern (relayed from Kathy H.) about the Rec calendar being used by commercial organizations to advertise. Referring to an August '16 memo from Jon Jewitt, Katharine felt, with the committee's concurrence, that the current policy statement is adequate: in essence, it allows for event sponsors and donors to be named, but prohibits open advocacy of particular businesses.

Skating Rink: Thanks to abundant assistance from the dedicated task force—aka snow shovellers—the rink has been consistently and appreciatively used by the community. Although adding a Friday-night-lights session initially seemed a good idea, unpredictable weather, conflicts with local basketball games, no warming shack (or possibility of a bonfire), led us to conclude that we'll continue to provide open-skate but offer no special events for the remainder of this season.

Next Organizational Meeting, March 14, 6:30 at the Public Safety Building: The committee will need to elect new officers. Katharine has decided to apply her much-admired, well-honed problem-solving talents to the School Board—our loss, their gain! Grudgingly, Joe allowed his

name to be put forward as new Chair, and Derek as vice-chair. We'll also need to discuss the Fun Run, summer plans, and brainstorm for the future.

Brainstorming: With some justifiable pride about recent accomplishments—clarifying Rec committee policies and responsibilities, shepherding the pump track and ice rink into existence, coordinating with Trails, upgrading a Rec calendar/Website—several ideas for the future need to be fleshed out:

(1) Jessica passed along an inquiry from Greensboro's Caspian Beach Committee about the possibility of coordinating a swim program in the summer. She and Nicole, who has direct interest and experience in such matters, will pursue implications of the Greensboro inquiry, including the possibility of an application to the Green Mountain Fund.

(2) Frisbee golf.

(3) Lyndon State summer camp.

(4) Skate park.

Joint Meeting with Trails on March 27: For the first of what will become a regular twice-a-year occasion, we agreed that a full gathering of the two committees was unnecessary. Instead, Katharine will co-ordinate a smaller-group exchange with Ron W, Norma W, and Eric R..

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek Williams